

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Public Duty

By Walter E. Myer

IT has become the fashion in some quarters to speak of duty as something out of date. Young people are supposed to express themselves, to seek self-development, to find ease, comfort, happiness. Now all this is well enough if viewed in the proper perspective. It is quite right that each one should try to find the way to a more abundant life. But to ignore the claims of duty is to renounce all that is great and noble and truly civilized. It is to forsake the path which alone has led to progress and general well-being.

If one forgets his obligations to others, the finest sentiments which ever inspired the acts of man will atrophy through disuse, and the individual will lose those characteristics which have ever distinguished the truly great. Not only will the individual suffer but there will be national decline. The public good might be forgotten in the good old easy days without bringing national calamity. But in these days of danger and crisis, a public-spirited citizenship is essential to national security.

There is reason enough why one should undertake to comprehend the problems of the public life in the interest of his own enlightenment. One needs a broad understanding of today's great issues in order that he may serve his own interests. But any competent person should be ashamed to stop at that, for the obligation rests upon every intelligent individual to make a contribution to the common good.

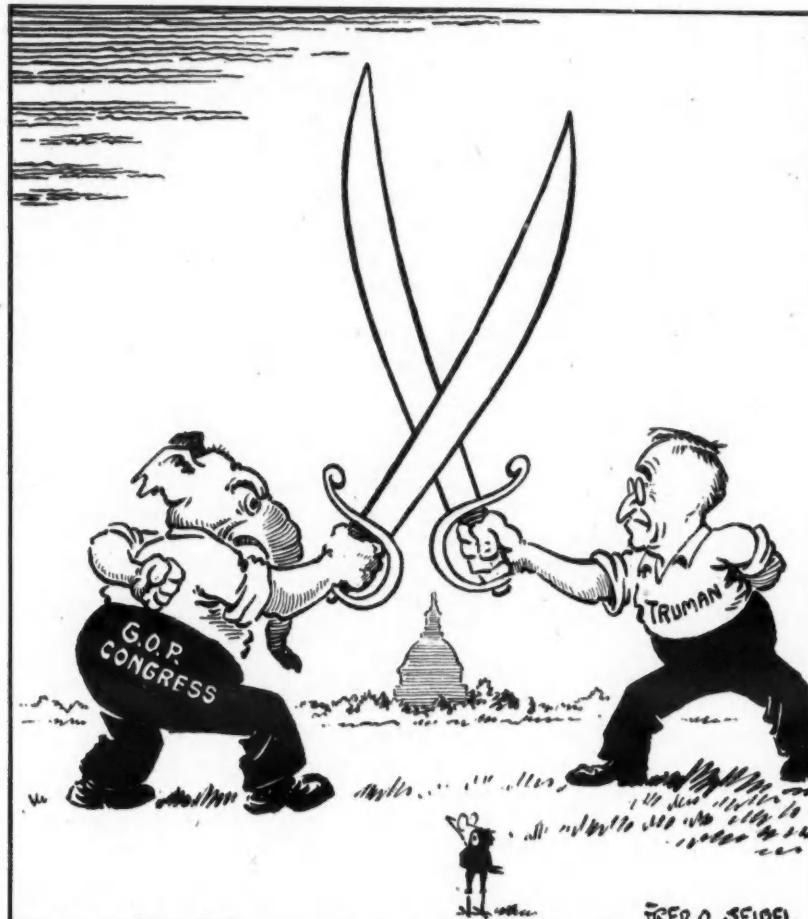
There are plenty of men and women of ability and training who are working against the common good in order to serve their own selfish ends. When too many people of ability are motivated solely by the thought of personal gain and refuse to develop the spirit of public service, the national welfare is in serious jeopardy. Anyone who, possessing a good mind, feels no impulse to use it to remedy the wrongs which cry to heaven and to lift the burdens which rest so heavily upon many of his fellow citizens, must be woefully lacking in moral vigor.

There is a call today for leadership which seeks to serve the common good. The young men and women who aspire to leadership should prepare to work for the public interests as effectively as the antisocial work for their selfish ends. Let the enemies of America and of the great body of Americans, the greedy interests, the criminals, the grafters and irresponsible leaders of every sort, be thwarted by an ability as great as theirs and a zeal as strong. Let the young citizens who are strong in mind bring to the public life ability and courage and enthusiasm more powerful than can be mustered by those who misuse power.

Such gifts for leadership are not possessed by all. Many there are who are lacking in competence, in courage, or in character. But the qualified youth of today must decide whether to go the way of the civic slacker or to travel the road of patriotism and public service.



Walter E. Myer



Nation Ponders An Old Problem

Can We Improve Cooperation Between the White House and Our Lawmakers?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S severe censure of the Eightieth Congress and the retorts of Congressional leaders have brought into the national spotlight a problem which has long engaged the attention of political students. In the heated exchanges between a Democratic President and a Republican-dominated Congress, political observers can see more than a temporary election-year squabble. They know that the recent outbursts are only the latest symptoms of a conflict which has raged on numerous occasions in the nation's capital.

This conflict between the executive and legislative branches of our government is by no means confined to periods when the President and the Congressional majority represent different political parties. Franklin Roosevelt, for example, was a Democratic President and always had a Democratic Congress, but he met with determined opposition in pushing through the reform program known as the "New Deal." His personal popularity was proved over and over by victories at the polls, but Congressional opposition to his domestic policies increased, rather than diminished, with the passage of time.

Upon the death of Mr. Roosevelt, Vice President Truman inherited his quarrel with Capitol Hill. As soon as it became apparent that Truman favored the New Deal policies of his predecessor, the controversy between President and Congress broke out with renewed fury.

But though the situation was bad while President and Congress were of the same party, it naturally became much worse after the elections of 1946. The Eightieth Congress, which was elected in that year, had Republican majorities in both houses, and the President found himself with even fewer friends in the Capitol than he had before.

It is a serious matter for the nation to have the legislative and executive branches of the federal government at odds. Our system of separate powers for each branch is designed to enable one arm of the government to check or balance the other and so prevent it from going too far. But unless there is a reasonable degree of cooperation between the branches, little can be accomplished.

Without majority support in Congress, the President cannot win approval for the new laws which he feels should be enacted. He may not even be able to administer the old laws in a manner which he considers satisfactory, for Congress has the "power of the purse"—the power to provide

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Record of Congress

Foreign Aid and National Defense Head List of Measures Enacted by Republican-Controlled 80th Congress

In a speech at Spokane, Washington, President Truman recently declared that the present Congress is "the worst one we have had since the first Congress met." Later he said that it was not the worst but the *second* worst. "I think," he said, "that the Thad Stevens Congress (during the Reconstruction era after the end of the Civil War) was a little worse."

These remarks brought prompt replies from Congressional leaders, who declared that many people considered Mr. Truman the *worst President* in U. S. history. In a nation-wide radio address, Senator Robert A. Taft defended the record of the 80th Congress and said that the President's remarks were "an attack on the principle of representative government itself."

Who is right in this dispute? Has this really been the second worst Congress in our history? Or have the House and Senate done a good job in dealing with the nation's problems? Now that Congress has adjourned for the political conventions, let's take a look at the record:

Election. The story of the 80th Congress begins with the election in November, 1946, when the Republicans won a majority in both House and Senate. This was the first session of Congress to be controlled by the Republicans since the days when Herbert

Hoover was in the White House. It began its work officially in Washington on January 3, 1947.

During the past 18 months, Congress has been in session nearly all the time, and has passed more than 1,000 bills. Most of this legislation, of course, has not been of much interest to the general public. Here are some of the more prominent measures that have been enacted:

Foreign Affairs. It is for its work in the field of foreign affairs and national defense that the 80th Congress is most likely to be remembered in history. Since the end of the war, Congress has had to deal with many complex problems of foreign policy. Two of the most important of these problems have been the economic revival of Western European countries and the so-called "cold war" between the United States and Russia.

To deal with these problems, Congress adopted the European Recovery Program, or "Marshall Plan," last April. It authorized the United States to spend more than \$5 billion during the next 12 months to aid the 16 western European nations which have agreed to work together to revive European trade and industry. Congress also added a provision granting over \$400 million to assist the government of China.

Congress' Record

(Concluded from page 1)

The purpose of the European Recovery Program is two-fold. First, it is a humanitarian measure to relieve hunger and distress among the people of western Europe. Second, it is a program designed to check Russia's westward expansion across Europe. It is believed that continued American aid during the next four years will help the 16 nations get back on their feet economically, and that they will then be in a stronger position to resist the spread of communism.

Earlier in the session, Congress also approved an emergency grant of \$400 million to aid Greece and Turkey. In March of last year, President Truman sent a special message to Congress requesting help for these two countries. Without such help, the President declared, Greece and Turkey were in danger of falling under the domination of the Soviet Union. After prolonged debate and careful study of the matter, Congress approved the President's request.

Bipartisan Policy

These measures were supported by both Republicans and Democrats in the House and Senate. Members of both parties endorsed our "bipartisan foreign policy," and followed the principle that "politics end at the water's edge." In this way, the United States has been able to present a united front in its dealings with other nations.

Closely related to these foreign policy measures were steps taken by Congress to strengthen our armed forces, which were rapidly demobilized after the end of World War II. A total of \$13 billion was appropriated to pay the costs of this rearment program during the next 12 months. Among the most important features of it are the following:

(1) *Unification of the armed forces.* Last year Congress passed legislation



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BURCK IN ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

Republicans defend the record of the 80th Congress by pointing to a few of its accomplishments—strengthening our Air Force, aiding nations which oppose communism, and cutting the American citizen's tax burden

providing that the War and Navy Departments in the President's cabinet be combined into one Department of National Defense, thus bringing all land, sea, and air forces under a unified command.

(2) *70-Group Air Force.* Last month Congress passed a bill providing over \$3 billion to strengthen the U. S. Air Force. Work was to start at once on building 4,000 new planes, mostly jet-propelled fighters and long-range bombers, to bring the total strength of the Air Force up to 70 groups (or a total of about 7,000 planes.)

This was a much larger appropriation for air power than the Secretary of National Defense had asked Congress to provide. It showed that most Congressmen believe that a powerful Air Force, supplied with atomic bombs, would be our best means of defense in any future war.

(3) *Draft Law.* In the closing days of the present session, Congress passed a law to draft young men for military service, but did not adopt proposals for a permanent system of universal military training.

The new law provides for the induc-

tion of young men between 19 and 25 years of age for 21 months of military service. But it contains numerous exceptions and will probably result in the drafting of less than 250,000 young men during the next 12 months. It will not apply, for example, to veterans of World War II, to persons with dependents, or to high school students (until they graduate, fail in their studies, or reach their 20th birthday.)

In the field of domestic problems, one of the first measures passed by the 80th Congress was that providing for the reduction of taxes on personal incomes. This bill was vetoed by the President and then passed over his veto by a two-thirds vote in both the House and Senate. It cut about \$5 billion from the federal government's income for the present year.

This measure aroused a heated argument in Congress. Those who supported tax reduction said that it would bring long-awaited relief to U. S. taxpayers and would mean more money to spend for the average family. Opponents of the measure replied that it was folly to reduce the government's income at a time when war threatened, and when huge expenditures for defense and foreign aid are necessary.

The Taft-Hartley Act, which curbs the power of labor unions, was another important law passed over President Truman's veto by the 80th Congress last year. It brought about the first major change in our national labor policy since adoption of the Wagner Act in 1935.

The new law empowers the President to obtain a court order (or injunction) to stop any strike, for a period of 80 days, if the national health or safety is threatened. It also outlaws the *closed shop*, forbids unions to engage in certain "unfair labor practices," and broadens the employers' right to sue unions for breaking their contracts.

In general, employers have praised the Taft-Hartley Act as a step toward peaceful solution of labor-management conflicts. Labor leaders, on the other hand, have bitterly denounced the Taft-Hartley Act as a "slave labor" measure, and have denounced the Congressmen who voted for it. The controversy over this law is expected to be one of the major issues in the elections this November.

Among other legislation passed by the 80th Congress were the following measures:

1. Extension of the Trade Agreements Act for only one year instead of the customary three years. This is the law (first enacted in 1934) which gives the President power to lower

American tariffs on foreign goods in exchange for similar concessions by other countries.

2. Extension of rent control in modified form until March, 1949.

3. Continuation of "support prices" for farm products. If the market price of various farm products falls below a certain point, the government will step in to keep farm prices up.

4. Admission of 205,000 "displaced persons" from European DP camps.

5. Speaker of the House placed first in line to become President in case of the death or removal from office of both President and Vice President.

In addition to passing these laws, Congressional committees held many investigations. One committee of Congressmen, for example, traveled in Europe last summer to study at first hand the need for American aid. Another committee investigated reports of speculation in grain markets by government officials. One of the most dramatic of all the investigations was that held by the House Un-American Activities Committee to determine the extent of communist influence in Hollywood.

Bills That Failed

At the end of every session of Congress there are numerous proposals which fail to pass or never come up for a vote. The 80th Congress was no exception. Some of the important measures which were recommended by President Truman but not enacted this session were the following:

1. The Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill to provide low-cost housing.
2. Federal aid to education.
3. Price controls and other measures to halt inflation.
4. Long-range farm program.
5. Civil rights legislation.
6. National health insurance.

The record of the Republican-controlled 80th Congress will probably play an important part in the election campaign this year. President Truman has already attacked the Republican lawmakers on many occasions and has urged the voters to elect Democrats to the 81st Congress. The Republican candidates have accepted the challenge and have vigorously defended the record their party has made in Congress during the past 18 months.

The voters of the country will have an opportunity to decide the question when they cast their ballots next November. To do this job well, each voter should know how the members of Congress from his district and state stand on the big issues and problems confronting the nation.



SEIBEL IN RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

BRINGING HOME THE BACON

President Truman has criticized Congress for failing to aid housing, education, and national health and for refusing to enact effective price-control legislation

The Role of Science in the World Today

Raymond Fosdick Says Man Must Learn Peaceful Uses for His Increasing Knowledge

Earlier this month, "the giant eye of Palomar," the 200-inch Hale telescope was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies. The principal address was given by Dr. Raymond Fosdick, at the time, president of the Rockefeller Foundation.

Dr. Fosdick outlined the role which the Mount Palomar (California) telescope will play in pushing back our scientific frontiers. He also pointed up graphically the dilemma faced by citizens—scientists and non-scientists alike: What will the growing scientific knowledge of today bring tomorrow? Will it serve or enslave us?

Because we believe our readers will be interested in examining some of the questions Dr. Fosdick raises and the answers he suggests, we are printing here excerpts from his speech.

Twenty years ago, when the 200-inch telescope project came up before our group in New York, one of our trustees raised an objection. It was in the form of a question—a question which finds an echo everywhere today. "What are we going to do with our new knowledge? Aren't we acquiring more knowledge than we can assimilate?"

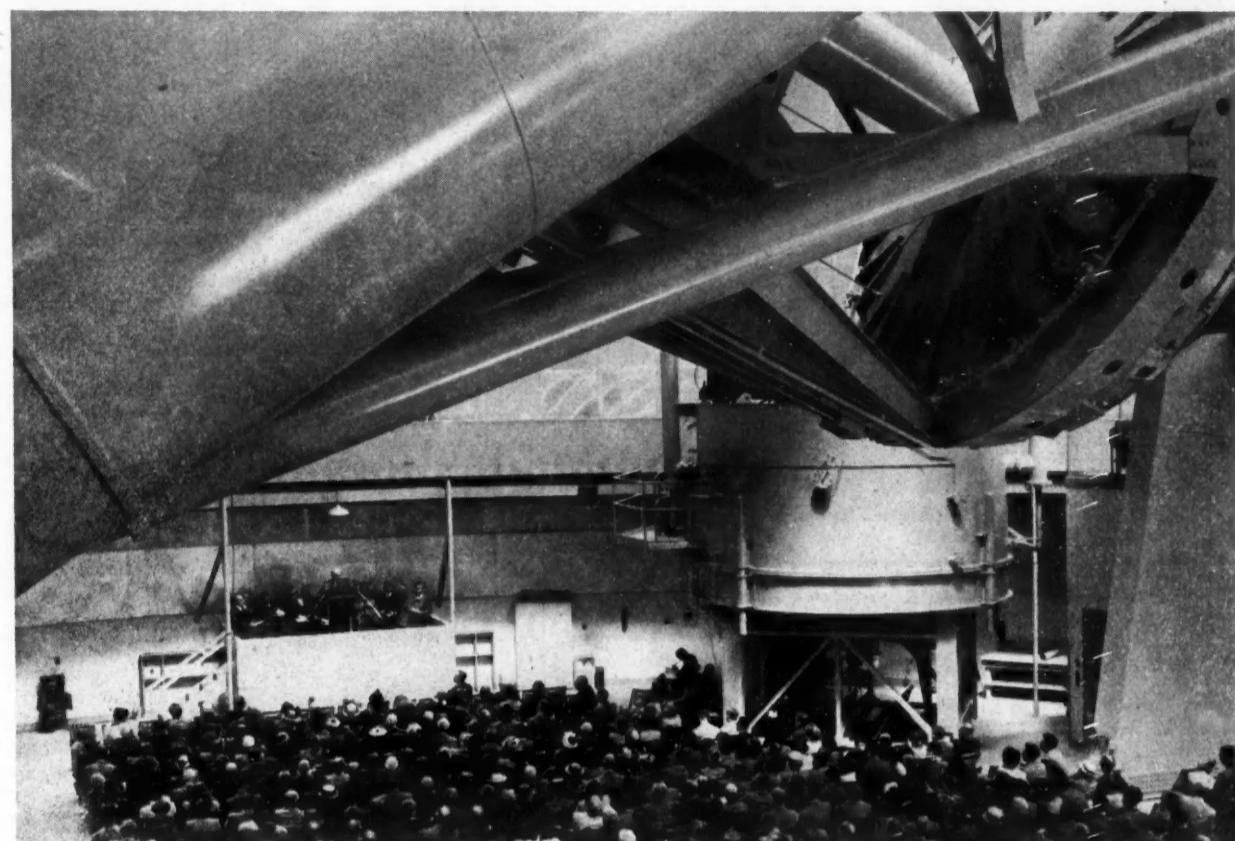
The shattering events of the last two decades have underscored the relevancy of this query. Knowledge and destruction have joined in a grand alliance that has made the history of our generation a history of deepening horror.

Obviously the difficulty lies in the fact that there is no way of foretelling what particular kind of knowledge is divertible to destructive ends. There is no method of classifying knowledge into safe and unsafe categories.

All knowledge has become dangerous. Indeed, knowledge has always been dangerous; for knowledge means power, and power can be used to degrade as well as to ennoble life.

In dedicating this telescope, we are face to face with the problem of the unpredictable consequences of knowledge. We cannot even guess what will come from this mighty instrument, or to what end the fresh insights which we gain here will be employed.

When the giant cyclotron was built at the University of California, nobody was thinking of the atomic bomb. It was conceived as an adventure in pure research, as an attempt to advance the boundaries of understanding



The recent dedication of the Hale telescope in the Mount Palomar Observatory. Part of the giant "eye" is shown

on a far frontier. It was a symbol of the human hunger for knowledge, an emblem of the unconquerable exploring urge within the mind of man.

And yet the cyclotron contributed materially to the development of one of the phases in the construction of the atomic bomb, just as this telescope may conceivably give us knowledge which, if we choose, we can employ in the insanity of a final war.

For Good or Evil

There is no segment of knowledge, whether in the physical sciences or the social sciences, whether in medicine or economics or astrophysics or anthropology, which cannot ultimately be employed to the detriment of mankind if that is what we deliberately elect to do with it.

Indeed, I believe that if the social sciences were developed as the physical sciences have been, we might have a weapon which, in unscrupulous hands, would be as deadly as the atomic bomb.

What then is our proper course of action? Do we stop building telescopes? Do we close down our cyclotrons? Do we forbid the extension of knowledge? Do we retreat to some safe, underground existence where we can barricade ourselves against our fears and the unwholesome intrusion of new ideas?

The questions answer themselves. Any attempt to fix boundaries beyond which intellectual adventure shall not be allowed to go, even if it could succeed, would return us to an animal existence in which mere survival was the only goal.

The search for truth is, as it always has been, the noblest expression of the human spirit. Man's insatiable desire for knowledge about himself, about his environment and the forces by which he is surrounded, gives life its meaning and purpose, and clothes it with final dignity.

We are false to ourselves and to our best instincts only when we turn our

backs on truth or close our eyes when it beckons.

And yet we know, deep in our hearts, that knowledge is not enough. This telescope is not enough. The vast enterprise of men that is pushing out the boundaries of knowledge in glorious adventure on a score of frontiers—all this is not enough. Unless we can anchor our knowledge to moral foundations, the ultimate result will be dust and ashes—dust and ashes that will bury the hopes and monuments of men beyond recovery.

The towering enemy of man is not his science but his moral inadequacy. Around the world today, laboratories supported by almost limitless resources are feverishly pushing their research in the development of physical and bacteriological weapons which overnight could turn this planet into a gigantic slaughterhouse.

On what moral basis will the decision be made to use these weapons? What ethical restraints will have developed to curb the hysteria, fright and passion of men against such a blind paroxysm of destruction? For if this final nemesis overtakes the pretensions of modern man, it will not be his science that has betrayed him, but rather the complete prostration of his moral values.

It will not be this telescope and all that it symbolizes that have led him to the doorstep of doom; it will be the impotence and immaturity of his ethical codes.

There is a sense, of course, in which the problem we face is not new. Over scores of centuries, man's progressive accessions of power have always outstripped his capacity for control, and the gap between his morality and the physical force at his disposal has always been uncomfortably wide.

But never before have his curiosity and ingenuity led him within the space of a few years to weapons by which he could completely obliterate his own institutions and decimate the planet.

This may seem too somber a note to be sounded at the dedication of a mighty instrument whose purpose is in line with man's noblest instincts; but in the twenty years that this telescope has been under construction, the human race has lived through its greatest tragedy.

We know now that knowledge is not a gift; it is a challenge. It is not merely an augmentation of facts; it is a test of human character. And our generation is presented with what may well be the final choice between the use of knowledge to build a rational world or its use to arm, for one last, desperate affray, the savage and uncivilized passions of mankind.

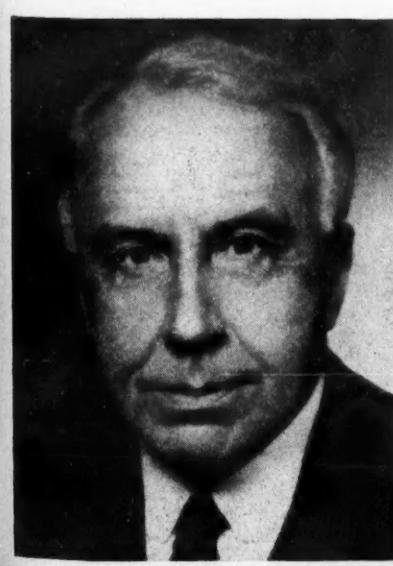
And yet I believe that in this crisis which we face, this telescope can furnish our stricken society with some measure of healing perspective. This great new window to the stars will bring us into touch with those outposts of time and space which have beckoned from immemorial ages. It will bring into fresh focus the mystery of the universe, its order, its beauty, its power. . . .

Gaining Perspective

Against this majestic background of space and time, the petty squabbling of nations on this small planet is not only irrelevant but contemptible. Adrift in a cosmos whose shores he cannot even imagine, man spends his energies in fighting with his fellow man over issues which a single look through this telescope would show to be utterly inconsequential.

We need in this sick world the perspective of the astronomer. We need the detachment, the objectivity, the sense of proportion which this great instrument can bring to man.

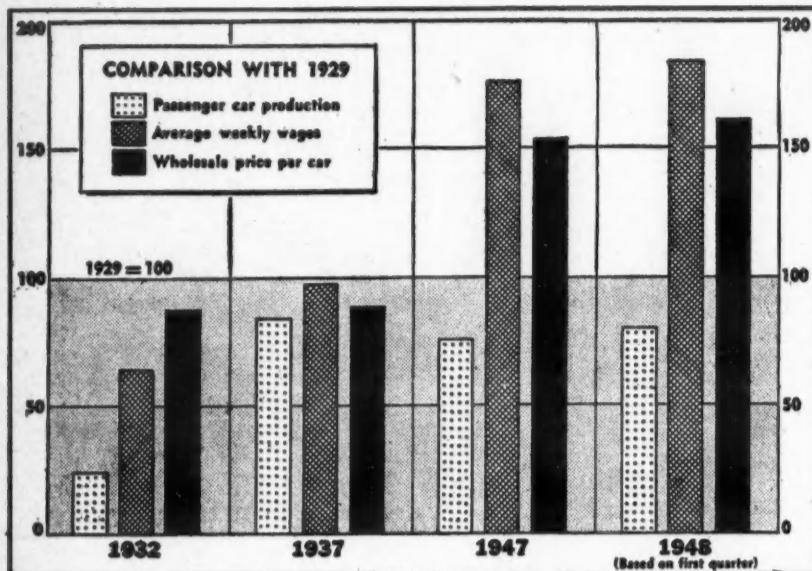
This telescope is the lengthened shadow of man at his best. It is man on tiptoe, tracing with eager finger the outlines of order and law by which his little life is everywhere surrounded.



Dr. Raymond Fosdick

WIDE WORLD

The Story of the Week



How production, wages, and prices within one industry have changed since 1929

US Joins WHO

The United States is now a member of the World Health Organization, one of the special agencies of the United Nations. President Truman recently signed a Congressional resolution providing membership. Representatives from this country are now taking part in the first World Health Assembly being held in Paris. The American delegation is headed by Thomas Parran, medical director of the U. S. Public Health Service.

Our joining WHO came after more than a year's delay during which the membership resolution was held up in the House of Representatives. Personal intervention by Speaker Joseph Martin finally succeeded in getting the resolution passed. The United States was the last of the Big Five to join the agency.

The World Health Organization is concerned with medical research and the raising of health standards throughout the world. The most spectacular accomplishment of WHO to date has been the halting of the cholera epidemic in Egypt last fall after it had raged at the rate of 1,000 new cases a day. The agency now has 42 member nations. The United States will contribute about 40 per cent of the organization's funds.

Atomic University

The first "atomic" university—Brookhaven National Laboratory—will open its doors this summer. The new institution, located on Long Island, New York, will train students in atomic science and will be a center of atomic research for peacetime uses. The laboratory will be operated by an organization of nine leading universities and will be financed by the federal government.

Work is already under way at Brookhaven in seeking uses for atomic energy in physics, chemistry, and biology. Departments of medicine and engineering will be established later. There will be no military work at the laboratory. Research will be devoted to finding uses of atomic energy that will benefit mankind.

One of the most urgent tasks before the Brookhaven scientists is to train students for research. At present there is a lack of trained workers

in this field. Not only is atomic research relatively new, but the war stopped the training of many students who normally would have been channeled into this vitally important branch of science.

Lilienthal's Plea

How can our best qualified citizens be induced to enter government service where they are urgently needed today? One answer to this question was recently advanced by David Lilienthal, chairman of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, in an address before the graduating class of the University of Virginia.

"In the next three decades I urge that every educated person who is qualified to do so plan definitely to set aside a number of years for the rendering of service in the legislative or executive branches of his local, state, or federal government," said Mr. Lilienthal.

"I am proposing a widespread rotation of the not-too-pleasant duties of public service, and I do not mean merely part-time or 'dollar-a-year' service alone. Nor in my opinion will it meet the situation to put this public service off until you are of retirement age . . . (What we need is) a fluid kind of citizen-service in which men and women move from private life into public service for a period, then back to private life again."

"Thus we will have private citizens experienced in public affairs, and public servants with judgment enriched by experience in daily problems of private affairs."

Women in the Military

Women now have a permanent place in our Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps. A new law, recently signed by President Truman, authorizes the peacetime establishment of the Wacs, Waves, Wafs (women's air force service), and women Marines. Hitherto the women's groups have existed only on the basis of wartime laws that may soon expire.

Under the terms of the recent act, the women's units are authorized to enroll about 30,000. However, present plans are to build strength to about half that figure in the next two years. During the war the top

enrollment was about 200,000; today it is about 10,000.

Decision to make the women a permanent part of the military organization came as a result of the success achieved by these groups during the recent conflict. Women were found to be generally better suited for clerical work, switchboard operation, and certain other jobs. Furthermore, their use enabled men to be released for combat duty.

New Chief for ILO

Sometime during the summer David Morse, a lawyer and former Under Secretary of Labor, will become director general of the International Labor Organization. Morse, who succeeds Edward Phelan of Ireland in the post, will be the second American to head this world agency. The first was the late John Winant who headed the organization in the years immediately preceding World War II.

A specialized agency of the United Nations, the ILO dates back to 1919 when it was set up under the League of Nations. The organization studies working conditions in nations throughout the world and makes recommendations for raising living standards everywhere. Representatives of government, labor, and industry from each of its 52 member countries attend the annual meetings. It is generally agreed that ILO has helped to improve working conditions in many parts of the world.

Delegates from all over the world are now attending the ILO Conference in San Francisco. Sessions will last until July 11.

Missouri Flood Control

Considerable progress is being made this summer on an ambitious reclamation and flood-control program in the Missouri Valley. The federal government and 10 states of the Missouri Basin are working together to prevent such destructive floods as that which recently swept the Columbia River in the Pacific Northwest. The program now under way—well publicized in recent years as the Pick-Sloan Plan—seeks to improve the land throughout the 2,500 miles of the Missouri Valley.

The Pick-Sloan Plan—a combina-

tion of separate plans drawn up by the Army Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation—has a number of specific objectives. More than 100 reservoirs on the Missouri and its tributaries are planned to store water for irrigation. Some 43 electric power plants will be built. Special measures, including a series of dams and levees, are intended to regulate the flow of water in the river. The teaching of better agricultural practices is a vital part of the program.

Actual construction is being carried out in more than 20 projects from Missouri to the Canadian border. In recent years there has been a good deal of discussion over the merits of the Pick-Sloan Plan as compared to a possible Missouri Valley Authority fashioned on the South's Tennessee Valley Authority. However, an MVA has never been authorized, while the Pick-Sloan Plan received the approval of Congress several years ago.

Gottwald Steps Up

With the recent accession of Premier Klement Gottwald to the presidency of Czechoslovakia, the triumph of communism in that troubled land seems complete. Gottwald, who engineered the Communist seizure of power last February, succeeds Eduard Benes who resigned early this month the post to which he had in 1946 been elected "for life." Antonin Zapotocky, a veteran Communist, is now premier in place of Gottwald.

In the future it can be expected that life in Czechoslovakia will follow the pattern of developments in other Communist-dominated lands. Already preparations are being made to "purge" the libraries of that country. By autumn it is believed that every library and bookshop in Czechoslovakia will have eliminated "unworthy literature," that is, books which do not completely approve the Communist line of thought.

Gustav of Sweden

Following the recent observance of his 90th birthday, King Gustav V of Sweden is continuing as usual his royal duties. Despite his age, the tall, white-haired monarch is remarkably fit—both physically and mentally. The oldest ruler in the world, Gustav will



Waves standing inspection. Service women are now a permanent part of our Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force

next December complete 41 years as Sweden's king.

Gustav was born in 1858 in the royal castle at Drottningholm. Before he assumed the throne, he served in the army and traveled widely throughout Europe. He became Sweden's ruler upon the death of his father in 1907.

During Gustav's long rule, democracy has made great advances in Sweden. Both world wars threatened to engulf the country, but on each occasion Sweden managed to keep on a neutral path. Above all else Gustav has tried to protect his people from the horrors of war.

Tremendously popular with the people of Sweden, Gustav leads an extremely simple life. He is highly democratic and likes to mingle with the people. Following his example, the other members of the royal family are also useful citizens who shun the pomp and publicity that often go with court life. One of the King's brothers

may help raise living standards in Great Britain. At present, there are simply too many people living in a small area to permit favorable economic conditions.

Plans for Germany

A Western German government which will give the Germans of that area a major role in handling their internal affairs appears a certainty next year now that France has approved the plan recently drawn up at London (see THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, June 21, p. 4). The other nations taking part in the meetings—Great Britain, the United States, and the Benelux countries—had given their approval earlier.

French approval came by a narrow margin. Many of the French lawmakers feared that the plans drawn up at London might allow Germany to regain enough power to threaten once more the safety of France. As a result, the Assembly approved the plan only as a starting point, and France will continue to try to strengthen certain provisions. In particular, the French want a stricter international control of the Ruhr than is now contemplated.

As had been expected, Russia opposes the idea of a separate Western German government. The Soviet Union has notified Great Britain that it cannot "accept" the plan. However, it seems unlikely that Russia's disapproval will cause any changes in present proposals. The Soviet Union did not participate in the London meetings.

Island of Rhodes

Talks now going on in an attempt to bring lasting peace to Palestine are attracting attention to the little-known island of Rhodes in the eastern Mediterranean. Chosen by Count Bernadotte, UN mediator, as the scene of the current negotiations, Rhodes is the largest of the Dodecanese Islands, which were awarded to Greece after World War II. Although it has fallen into obscurity in modern times, the craggy island has a colorful past.

British Emigration



In Ottawa, capital city of Canada, the European parliamentary system holds sway

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY

Debate Over Political Systems

(Concluded from page 1)

or to withhold the funds required by the executive departments.

On the other hand, Congress needs the cooperation of the President. The party in control may be able to muster the votes necessary to pass a bill, but the President can use his power of veto to keep the bill from becoming a law. Once a bill is vetoed, it can be saved from death only by being passed again—this time with a two-thirds majority. Often the dominant party in Congress cannot obtain a two-thirds majority for overriding the veto.

Lawmaking Deadlocked

It can easily be seen, therefore, how mutual hostility may operate to slow up or even deadlock the normal processes of government. And leafing through the pages of history we can find a number of examples of its doing so. Since the Civil War, there have been eight times when one party has controlled at least the House of Representatives while the opposing party had its President in the White House. Each time the machinery of government has worked under difficulties.

President Taft, a Republican, faced this problem during his last two years in office, when the Democrats had control of Congress. His trouble was increased by a revolt on the part of Republican congressmen who disapproved of his policies.

Woodrow Wilson was another President who had to face an unfriendly Congress for two years. The Republicans refused almost every important request he made.

The tables were turned when the Democrats held sway in Congress during the last two years of President Hoover's term in the White House. There was an almost complete stalemate in lawmaking during that critical period of depression, large-scale unemployment, and discontent.

To some students of government these recurrent deadlocks seem sufficiently serious to warrant a change in our political system. These people would like to have the Constitution altered so as to permit us to adopt what is known as the *parliamentary system*. In Britain, in the dominions of the British Commonwealth, and in those countries of continental Europe which still retain a democratic form of government, the parliamentary system has been used for many years.

In Canada, our neighbor to the north, we find the parliamentary system functioning much as it does in her mother country, Britain. For instance, the Canadian Prime Minister, who is the equivalent of our President, is not directly chosen by the people. The Canadian voters elect members of the House of Commons (the more important of the two Houses of Parliament). Then the leader of the strongest party in the House of Commons becomes Prime Minister or head of the government.

Canadian elections are scheduled to be held every five years. But when a really serious dispute arises between the Prime Minister and the House of Commons, either one can force the holding of an immediate election. Thus, the voters can decide between the two disputants without wasting time and going through a long period of conflict.

If the election places a majority of the Prime Minister's supporters in the House of Commons, the Prime Minister retains his office. But if the voters elect a majority of his opponents, he must hand in his resignation. The leader of the party which then has the majority becomes the new Prime Minister.

Rightly or wrongly, an increasing number of American political students and writers are coming to feel

that the United States should adopt the parliamentary system. They list these reasons for their belief:

1. The parliamentary system is more democratic than ours. It enables the people to decide very quickly any national issue which has become a serious cause of friction between the lawmakers and the head of the government. When the majority of the people turn against the party in power, they do not have to wait a long time before they can put it out and install another party to run the entire government.

If we had this system, there would have been no controversy between President and Congress after the election of 1946. When the Republicans won that election, President Truman would simply have handed over the reins of government to the leader chosen by the Republican members of Congress. Most voters would have been satisfied, because the change would have been in line with their decision to give the Republicans control of Congress. The same thing would be true later on if the people elected a Democratic Congress while a Republican President was in office.

2. The parliamentary plan would frequently help when the President and the majority in Congress belonged to the same party. As we have said, a Democratic Congress refused to support many measures requested by the late President Roosevelt and by President Truman.

The European system brings strong pressure to bear on both the executive and the lawmakers to make them work out their differences. They know that if they engage in a dispute which threatens to drag out over a long period an election will have to be held to decide the issue. No one can be sure who will win at the polls, and elections are costly and inconvenient.

So everyone concerned makes a real effort to keep disagreements from causing harmful stalemates.

3. The parliamentary system, if followed in our country, would make both the President and Congress pay closer attention to public opinion. As it is now, either the Chief Executive or the lawmakers may occasionally do something which is opposed by the majority of the people. It is assumed that most people, by election time, will have forgotten the unpopular move. If both Congress and the President knew, however, that an election might be held at any time, they would be more careful to respect the wishes of the majority of voters.

Case for Our Method

Opponents of parliamentary government admit that there are drawbacks to our political system, but they still think that it is superior to any other. They argue as follows:

The parliamentary system is not as stable as ours. Business and the whole nation would find it upsetting to have an election called whenever the President and Congress fail to agree. There is seldom a complete deadlock between the executive and legislative branches. The fact that both know that they cannot change the political situation until election time causes them to make compromises and try to work in harmony.

Both the President and Congress, when they are engaged in a controversy, have the power to appeal to public opinion for support. If the people feel that the issue is serious enough, they can force action of the kind they want by methods other than voting. Letters to Congress and government officials can greatly influence their views and actions.

More often than not, the country gains when there is lengthy study and debate over important bills. The nation's laws are sounder as a result. It is better to make laws too slowly than to make them too rapidly.

If the parliamentary system were adopted here, a hostile President and Congress would each try to bring about an election at what seemed the most favorable time. There would be much political scheming and playing for advantage, and this state of affairs would seriously interfere with the work of the national lawmakers, especially in time of crisis.

Such, in brief, are the arguments for and against the parliamentary system. They will continue to be heard whenever disputes between the legislative and executive branches slow down the law-making process.



Herbert Hoover, 30th President

Weekly Digest of Fact and Opinion

(The opinions quoted or summarized on this page are not necessarily endorsed by THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

"Canadian Ideals and U. S. Dollars," by Bruce Hutchison, American Mercury.

Canada has entered the greatest crisis of its history. The crisis is in part political and in part economic. Its outcome will determine whether the nation can preserve its way of life and avoid being absorbed by a friendly neighbor—the United States.

Politically, Canada has achieved a distinctive place in the world. After gaining her independence from Britain, she succeeded in steering a middle course between the larger nations. But now conditions have changed. Two great hostile giants dominate the international scene, and the smaller nations must choose one or the other.

Can Canada preserve her political freedom in this struggle between the giants? The answer must come in part from the United States. If the antagonism between that nation and Russia increases, the temptation for the U. S. to push her smaller neighbor around will also increase. The U. S. must realize, however, that a strong and independent Canada is a better ally than a weak nation would be.

The answer to the economic problem is simpler, but it also depends upon understanding and cooperation between the two nations. If Canada is to prosper, tariffs on trade with the United States must be reduced. Since the war Canada has been buying twice as much from her neighbor as she sold to her. This situation led to the dollar shortage that caused the Canadian government to cut off all imports from the United States. Canada does not want an exclusive customs union with the United States, but she believes that freer trade is essential to both nations.

Throughout Canada's history, some people have believed that the country's future lay in union with the United States. Most Canadians, however, do not want this. They are proud of their accomplishments and the way of life they have developed. They ask only that their neighbor to the south understand Canada's problem and help to find an answer.

"Great Newspapers, If Any," by Gerald Johnson, Harper's.

Journalism is intensely personal. The quality of a newspaper is determined by the personalities of the people who manage it. If you find a great newspaper, rest assured that somewhere in the works is at least one great man. He may be the owner, or the managing editor, or any of a dozen other executives, but he is there and he has authority. Extinguish him and the paper instantly ceases to be great.

Because a newspaper is an intensely personal product, it is as difficult to judge newspapers as it is to judge people. The greatest newspaper is as hard to find as is the greatest man.

Nevertheless, there are certain qualities that we should be able to expect of a good newspaper. For instance, every respectable paper in the country now acknowledges its duty to print the news, even when the news is unfavorable to the policy it advocates. When a politician who has misused his office is convicted of crime, the



Most Americans agree that we have one of the freest presses in the world, but there is difference of opinion as to the quality of our newspapers

fact cannot be ignored even by journals which support his party.

However, the notion that opinions, as well as specific events, are news is by no means universally accepted. Many newspapers regard it as no part of their duty to present their readers with a summary of all shades of opinion, even when they hold monopoly position in their towns. Admittedly, the editorial page is the place for the paper's own opinion. But in a one-newspaper town it is clearly the duty of the journal holding the monopoly to make room somewhere, as in a "Letters to the Editor" column, for the presentation of opinions challenging its own.

"How to Pick a Candidate," by John C. Knox, U. S. District Judge, American Magazine.

For the next five months you will be subjected to an intense barrage of political propaganda. You will be cajoled, flattered, and threatened by political strategists who will promise you the moon to get your vote. Just how competent are you to see through campaign propaganda and judge candidates and their statements?

In view of the increasing complexity of modern life, the job of making an intelligent choice among candidates has become difficult. Yet, this year, particularly, it is desperately important that voters exercise the very best judgment possible. The times are too dangerous for us to elect incompetent men to public office.

That means we must know how to sift through campaign propaganda and weigh all evidence judiciously—a job in many respects like that of being a good juror at a trial. Like some lawyers who play upon jurors' emotions as upon harp strings, many political candidates will likewise resort to strategies to play upon your sympathies. All this will be diverting, but don't forget to keep your eye on the ball. The best way to immunize yourself to political propaganda is to understand how it works, and how to discount it in reaching your verdict.

For example, a shrewd candidate knows that the easiest way to discredit a rival is to pin an unsavory label on him, no matter how unfair. Our vocabulary is full of such smear labels as "reactionary," "warmonger," "parlor pink," and "crystal-gazer."

vote, decide which side has built up the best possible case for itself.

"Who Should Go to College?" J. B. Conant, Ladies' Home Journal.

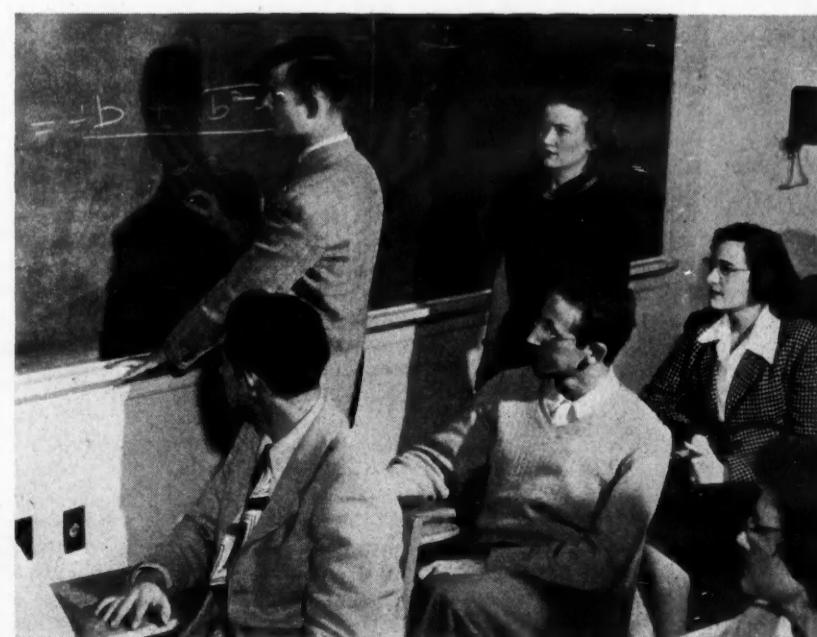
Facts gathered by the Army during the war and studies made by other organizations show that we are failing to develop the intellectual resources of our nation. We have not been providing opportunities for college education to many individuals who are well qualified for it. The barrier that most frequently prevents these persons from going on to college from high school is lack of funds.

We must bear these facts in mind as we analyze the situation and make our plans for tomorrow. But first, to outline the goals of our educational system, it is assumed that most Americans would subscribe to the following ideal: Equality of educational opportunity, the minimum of class distinction, the maximum of individual freedom, and widespread opportunity for individual initiative.

We can attain these goals by providing a two-year college course for all persons who are capable of doing the work, and, beyond this, by making it possible for the most capable students to go on to intensive preparation for professional careers. The two-year course can be handled on a local basis by extending our public school system.

Professional training can best be given in colleges and universities that are already established. Right now these institutions are crowded. But as soon as the veterans whose education was delayed have completed their schooling, college enrollment will drop. It probably will not rise again in the future, if we put our emphasis upon giving professional training only to persons qualified for it. By providing capable individuals with scholarships, and by eliminating those who do not have the ability to go on, we can improve the quality of instruction at this level without building more colleges.

These are only preliminary suggestions. The entire question is one that demands the attention of our leading citizens. Only with thorough study and analysis can plans be made for an educational system that will lead to a stable yet dynamic society.



Are all American students entitled to a college education?

Science News

A new "gold rush"—1948 version—has struck Colorado and northern Canada. Prospectors, who have substituted jeeps for burros, and electronic instruments for mining tools, are seeking deposits of valuable uranium.

The U. S. Atomic Energy Commission announced recently that it would pay sums almost double those formerly offered for new discoveries of the mineral. Canada's government has also offered private industry attractive inducements for finding and producing uranium.

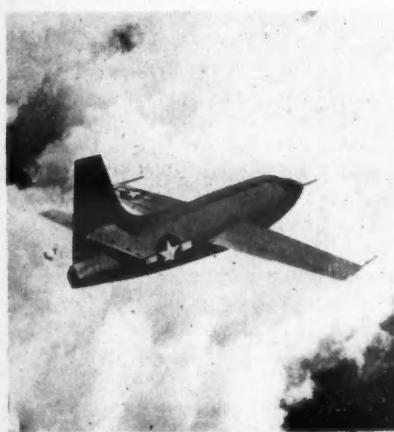
Although the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission now uses uranium from foreign countries for making bombs, since it is cheaper, our government is anxious to build up its own stockpile. It is hoped that the high prices now being offered will encourage industry to discover improved ways of mining uranium. Eventually, our country may not have to depend on imports.

* * *

The United States Coast Guard's fleet of helicopters is to receive "sea-going boots" late this summer. The "boots" are nylon and rubber rafts which can be inflated around the three landing wheels of the craft. When filled with carbon dioxide, the doughnut-like rafts allow a helicopter to make a safe landing on the water.

* * *

The XS-1 is the Air Force plane which has been flying at speeds faster than sound. Although officials have



Faster than sound

not released the exact figure, it was rumored that the four-rocket experimental plane has reached a speed of nearly 1,000 miles an hour. The tiny craft, which has a wing span of only 28 feet, was launched at an altitude of 35,000 feet from a B-29 bomber.

Experts say that the fuel problem will have to be solved before supersonic flight can be made practicable. The XS-1, for example, was able to carry only enough fuel to allow it to stay in the air for three minutes, although its fuel supply weighed twice as much as the plane itself.

* * *

Baseball fans attending night games at Briggs Stadium, Detroit, find themselves in the world's most brightly lighted ball park. According to General Electric engineers, enough electricity is consumed in one game to serve a city of 7,500 people. The floodlights utilize 1500-watt lamps, and are sealed against weather, dirt, and insects. The glass is "ball proof."



Middle East petroleum can help to supplement our rapidly dwindling supply

More Oil Needed by U. S.

TH E United States is in a critical oil situation. . . We will be short more than three million barrels a day if war comes. . . The Armed Services do not have enough petroleum on hand to meet an emergency. . . Our oil shortage is now chronic."

These statements sum up some of the findings of a special Congressional subcommittee, headed by Congressman Dewey Short of Missouri. The subcommittee was appointed to study the oil question because of a growing concern as to our supply in the event of war. It revealed a number of startling facts.

In the first place, we are using more petroleum at the present time than the entire world consumed in 1938. We are using more oil, in a year of peace, than we did at the peak of the recent war.

There are two million more cars registered than there were in 1941. A million and a half more trucks are traveling the highways than there were then. Increasingly large amounts of oil are being used by buses, farm machines, and airplanes.

Dealers throughout the nation have received over a million new oil-heating units, for more and more people are using this method of heating their homes. Diesel locomotives use thousands of gallons of petroleum each year. Even more of this valuable fuel would be used if dealers had it to sell. It looks now as though our present peacetime petroleum difficulties will get still worse, and, in the event of another war, the situation will become critical.

Other factors, in addition to the increased use of petroleum, are adding to the predicament. We have an acute shortage of transportation facilities—a shortage of both tankers and pipe lines which are needed to carry petroleum and natural gas to the main industrial areas of the nation.

Experts, who were consulted by members of the congressional subcommittee, report that we have already found well over half of the crude oil which we can expect to locate in oil-producing regions of our country. One of them says that we shall now be lucky to find one billion barrels of new oil annually. Another estimates that demand will outstrip production by a million barrels a day this year and by

two million barrels daily in 1954. This means that we will be increasingly dependent upon foreign sources, or on expensive substitutes.

What can be done about this? The first suggestion offered by Congressman Short's group is that we must help the steel industry. Pipe lines and tankers depend on steel. More steel must be provided promptly, in order that the oil industry can build the transportation facilities so desperately needed. If voluntary steel-allocation programs do not meet the need, the committee suggests that the government step in and allocate steel to essential users—particularly to the petroleum industry.

An ambitious stock-piling program should be undertaken. This could be done either by buying oil abroad and holding it in reserve, or by setting aside some of our own oil fields for emergency use.

Our Navy is now conducting an extensive program of oil exploration at Point Barrow, Alaska. This program must be extended, and additional funds must be granted for its development. Then too, only a small percentage of our public lands are under lease for the development of possible fuel resources. If the United States Geological Survey were given more funds, these lands could be surveyed.

Some experts have advocated the building of additional pipe lines in the Middle East. However, these lines would be difficult to defend in time of war, and they would require huge steel allocations. The committee feels that it would be more profitable to use tankers to import oil from abroad.

Synthetic oil has long been the dream of many Americans. A vigorous synthetic research program is, of course, needed. The committee states, however, that a large-scale synthetic fuel industry cannot possibly be developed for at least 10, or possibly 20 years, and in the meantime we will have to use other means for building up our oil reserves.

In conclusion, the group suggests that a commission on petroleum be established to resurvey the entire oil question. Governmental action could then be taken on steel allocation, and further investigation of our domestic consumption of petroleum could immediately be made.

Study Guide

Eightieth Congress

1. In what respect did the Eightieth Congress differ from all of its predecessors since the administration of President Hoover?
2. What important program did the Congress adopt to assist the nations of Western Europe?
3. What sweeping change did Congress make late last year in the organization of our defense forces?
4. In what other ways did it seek to strengthen the defenses of the nation?
5. State in a few words the chief purpose of the Taft-Hartley Act.
6. The Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill, which Congress failed to pass, was intended to play a part in the solution of what grave national problem?

Discussion

1. Review the principal measures passed by the Eightieth Congress and those which it failed to pass. Do you feel that our lawmakers did well or badly during their 18 months in Washington? Support your view with definite reasons.
2. What measures passed by Congress do you consider unwise? What measures that were not passed do you feel should have been enacted?

Our Political System

1. If most Congressmen oppose the policies of a President, in what two ways can they create difficulties for him?
2. How can a President block the enactment of laws?
3. What serious trouble may be caused by hostility between Congress and the Chief Executive?
4. Describe the parliamentary system of government.
5. How is the Canadian Prime Minister chosen?
6. When the Prime Minister and the House of Commons in England and Canada cannot agree, by what means can the issue be quickly settled?

Discussion

1. What are the advantages of the parliamentary system? In what ways do you think our own system is superior?
2. Which of the two systems do you consider better for the United States? List your reasons.

Miscellaneous

1. The United States is now a member of a United Nations agency known as "WHO." What is the agency's full name?
2. Why may the Brookhaven National Laboratory be spoken of as an "atomic university"?
3. David Morse, former Under Secretary of Labor, has become director of what UN agency?
4. Where are numerous dams being built in accordance with the federal government's Pick-Sloan plan?
5. Who is the new President of Czechoslovakia? What office did he hold previously?
6. King Gustav V is the 90-year-old ruler of what country?
7. About how many Britons have emigrated in the past 18 months? How many more would like to go?
8. Name the two dominions which are most popular with British emigrants as destinations.
9. What Mediterranean island was chosen as the place for holding the Palestine peace conference?
10. The oil shortage, we are told, is now chronic. Why are we having more difficulty in supplying our oil needs than we did before the war?
11. What outstanding achievement has been credited to the Air Force's little rocket-propelled XS-1?

Pronunciations

Dodecanese—doh-dek'-uh-nee'
 Clement Gottwald—kleh'ment got'veahl
 Gustav—guh'stahv
 Rhodesia—rō-dēz'huh
 Tanganyika—tān-gān-yē'kuh
 Antonin Zapotocky—ahn-tō-nēn' zah-pō-taw-skē'